

What is claimed is:

1. A film autoloader for separating one photographic film from a plurality of photographic films and supplying the photographic film to an image reading apparatus for reading image recorded on the photographic film, comprising:

a film loading section for loading therewith a spliced film in which the plurality of photographic films are connected in a longitudinal direction thereof;

a film feeding portion for feeding, from the film loading section, a head portion of the spliced film loaded with the film loading section;

a joint detecting section for detecting a film joint portion between a first photographic film and a second photographic film in the spliced film fed from the film loading section, the second photographic film being fed next to the first photographic film;

a film separating section for separating the first photographic film from the spliced film on the basis of information from the joint detecting section; and

a film transporting portion for transporting the first photographic film separated from the spliced film by the film separating section to a reading transport path provided at the image reading apparatus.

2. A film autoloader according to claim 1, wherein, with the film loading section, the spliced film that is taken up in roll

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a loop forming section, which is provided at a downstream side with respect to the film separating section along a transporting direction of the photographic film by the film transporting portion, and by which the photographic film transported by the film transporting portion is bent along a substantially thickness direction thereof so as to form a loop-shaped portion therein when another photographic film is on the reading transport path.

5. An image reading apparatus comprising:

a film loading section for loading therewith a spliced film in which the plurality of photographic films are connected in a longitudinal direction thereof;

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a transport merging portion provided between the film transporting portion and the reading transport path;

path; and

a transport switching section, which is provided in the transport merging portion, for switching a transport route of the spliced film or the photographic film so that the spliced film that is transported along the film supply path enters the reading transport path, and that the photographic film that is transported from the reading transport path enters the film output path.

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